tute a National Advisory Committee for patent information to look into issues relating to patents; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this respect and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Patent Information System (PIS) headquartered at Nagpur is being modernised with assistance from WIPO/UNDP. The Expert Missions under this project have recommended setting up of an Advisory Committee to advise the PIS on its services and operations. Government has not yet taken a decision on the recommendation.

Increased Prices of Raw Material Affecting Exports

3665. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that exporters, especially those manufacturing textiles-related products, handicrafts, leather, jute and light engineering goods are facing difficulty in executing export orders due to a sharp increase in the prices of raw materials;

(b) whether it is a fact that the closure of a large number of small-scale industries in various parts of the country had stopped the flow of raw materials to the exporters;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose immediate action to ractify the position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Exports to South Africa

3666. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to achieve an export target of Rs. 2000 crores to South Africa besides setting up joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to explore the possibliity of creating a nodal agency facilitating transhipment of Indian goods to Latin American countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is, however, expected that Indian exports to South Africa are likely to gain substantially though it is difficult to estimate the exact value at this stage.

(c) No, Sir.

New Delhi G-15 Summit

3667. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be plaesed to state :

(a) whether New Delhi Summit of G-15 opposed move for trade curbs;

(b) how many businessmen from the concerned countries had visited and took part in discussion with their counter-parts;

(c) whether any concrete measures and steps were discussed to improve the trade relations among the G-15 countries;

(d) if so, what were the decisions arrived at; and

(e) whether the G-15 has criticised big nations on trade curbs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (e) Issues pertaining to multilateral cooperation in trade were discussed at the G-15 Summit held at New Delhi. The Joint Communique expressed the hope that the World Trade Organisation resulting from the Urugay Round negotiations would countribute positively to rule based, predictable, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and uphold the rights and interests of the weaker trading nations. Concern was expressed at attempts to by pass and undermine the multilateral framework through resort to unilateral action and attempts to use environmental and social concerns for protectionist purposes.

A meeting of the G-15 business forum, in which a large number of businessmen from G-15 countries including India participated, was also held at the time of the G-15 Summit. The business forum held wide ranging discussions and made specific recommendations to crease intra G-15 cooperation in sectors such as trade finance, telecommunications etc. The G-15 Summit decided to broaden the scope of intra G-15 cooperation through liberalisation, facilitation and promotion of trade to increase economic interaction within the Group and utilise the complementarities of G-15 countries to enlarge markets and accelerate growth and development.

Visit of Japanese Economic Commission to India

3668. SHRI VERENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high powered Japanese Economic Commission visited India in March, 1994 with a view to expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held by them with the Indian leaders and the representatives of the country's trade and industry;

(c) whether any question regarding India's defence expenditure was raised in the context of providing Japanese investments in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir, a Japanese Economic Mission led by Mr. E. Yamashita visited India in March, 1994 for discussions with the Government of India and to attend the 25th Meeting of the Indo-Japan Joint Business Cooperation Committee.

(b) The discussions generally focussed on the Indian Economic Reforms and the various bottlenecks as perceived by the Japanese side in the matter of Japanese investment in India as well as the prospects for the future.